

DG 04-156

CONCORD STEAM CORPORATION

Petition for Rate Increase

Order Approving Rate Case Expenses

ORDER NO. 24,547

November 18, 2005

On June 2, 2005, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 24,472 approving the Settlement Agreement entered into by Commission Staff (Staff) and Concord Steam Corporation (Concord Steam), resolving all outstanding issues in connection with the petition for a rate increase filed by Concord Steam. One of the terms of the approved Settlement Agreement states:

“Concord Steam will be allowed to recoup its reasonable rate case expenses as approved by the Commission through a surcharge applied over 12 months, to commence upon approval of such expenses. Concord Steam shall make such a filing no later than ninety 90 days from Commission approval of the Settlement Agreement. Such request shall set forth a detailed itemization of such expenses. Rate case expenses shall include the legal expenses directly related to this docket and such other expenses directly related to this docket as may be allowed by the Commission.”

On July 18, 2005, Concord Steam submitted a rate case expense filing seeking recovery of \$22,756 over a one-year period through a \$0.12 per Mlb (1,000 pounds of steam) surcharge. The filing included a summary of rate case expenses, annual sales forecast, surcharge calculation and a revised tariff page. Subsequently, Concord Steam filed supporting documentation that was discovered to be missing from the original filing.

The Commission’s Audit Staff conducted an audit of the supporting documentation and on September 26, 2005, issued a report verifying expenses of \$22,686. On November 9, 2005 Staff filed its recommendation with the Commission that Concord Steam be

authorized to recover rate case expenses of \$22,686 over a one year period through the proposed \$0.12 per Mlb rate case expense surcharge. We conclude that Staff's recommendations, based on its examination of Concord Steam's rate case expenses, are consistent with the public interest and we therefore adopt them.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Concord Steam rate case expenses of \$22,686 are APPROVED for recovery; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Concord Steam's proposed rate case expense surcharge of \$.12 per Mlb for the period November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006, effective on a service rendered basis, is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Concord Steam shall provide a monthly calculation of the projected over or under calculation of rate case expenses, based upon which the Commission may make further adjustments to the rate case surcharge as necessary; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Concord Steam shall file a full reconciliation of rate case expense surcharge revenues and expenses by December 31, 2006; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Concord Steam submit a supplement to the tariff reflecting the rate case recoupment terms approved in this order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth
day of November, 2005.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Michael D. Harrington
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary